Local women launch successful business

By FRANCES H. ABBITT

With a $10 checking account and a lot of determination, Debbie Powell and Carol Bradley, both of Appomattox, began their own business, Virginia Redware, in the basement of the Bradley home.

Carol, married to Mike Bradley of Armstrong, is a graduate of Auburn University with a degree in economics. They have one daughter.

Debbie, a graduate of Mary Washington College, is married to Kenneth Powell, a local physician; they have two children.

When asked how two women with degrees in economics ended up working in pottery, they both laughed.

"We've both been asked that question many times," said Powell. "Maybe it's because we are both interested in folk art and decorating."

The two women, more or less, began the business as a "something to do" endeavor. But the business began to grow with amazing success, and the Bradley basement would no longer accomodate the new venture. So, in January of this year the business was moved to their present location, a site behind the Appomattox Hardware, formerly occupied by the Appomattox Farm Supply.

Redware, a folk art which has survived from the earliest days of colonization, was created by colonial potters to supply household items for the common people. The need for such pottery arose because most settlers were unable to afford pewter or imported china.

There were many potters among the early colonists, some of whom were farmers, who produced pottery only during months when chores were light. Typically a potter would work for weeks to fill a large outdoor kiln. The kilns were fired with wood and the fire fed continuously for approximately thirty-six hours to attain the maturation temperature of the clay. The kiln was then allowed to cool slowly for a week or so before being opened. Word of a kiln opening would spread throughout surrounding communities and customers would come form miles around.

Redware continued to be produced into the late nineteenth century. After the Civil War it was disdainfully referred to as "dirt dishes" by Southern gentry who had been forced to adopt a more simplistic life style. Most pieces were undecorated for daily use. However much of what has survived was decorated and used for gifts and special occasions.

It is from these decorated pieces that Virginia Redware Traditional was inspired, using the same techniques as were used when the clay is rolled, decorated, glazed and then fired. Decoration is applied by either slip trail or sgraffito. Slip trail entails drawing a design on the wet clay with another color slip (a watery clay mixture).

A sgraffito design is incised through a layer of yellow slip on the plates surface to allow the underlying red clay to show through. Designs are inspired by the folk art of the period, especially that of the German settlers who migrated to the Shenandoah Valley in the mid-eighteenth century. Each plate is inscribed on the back with a folk saying, the date and the artist's initials as was customary.

The plates are safe for use with food but they are not suitable for cooking and because the clay remains porus on the back hand washing only is recommended.

SOMETHING NEW IN APPOMATTOX – Virginia Redware, owned and operated by Debbie Powell, left, and Carol Bradley, right. Redware, a folk art which has survived from the earliest days of colonization, was created by colonial potters to supply household items for the common people who could not afford pewter or imported china. Each plate is inscribed on the back with a folk saying, the date and the artists initials, as was customary in the beginning. (Photo by Frances Abbitt)

JOHN CAWTHORNE, 14, caught this 11-pound catfish around 2 p.m. Saturday in the James River. He caught the fish on cut bait, while fishing with John and Jimmy Moore. The fish was weighed in at Bob Wenning's store, the old Beckham store on road 605, where John, Jimmy and Jerry Moore have all weighed in catfish between eight and ten pounds recently at the informal "catfish tournament" held at the store. John's father, Thomas Cawthorne, notes that the informal tournament is open to the fishing public, and Bob Wenning invites anyone with a large fish to have it weighed at the store. (Photo by Allen Austin)

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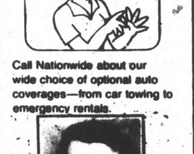

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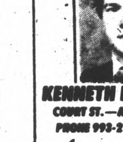

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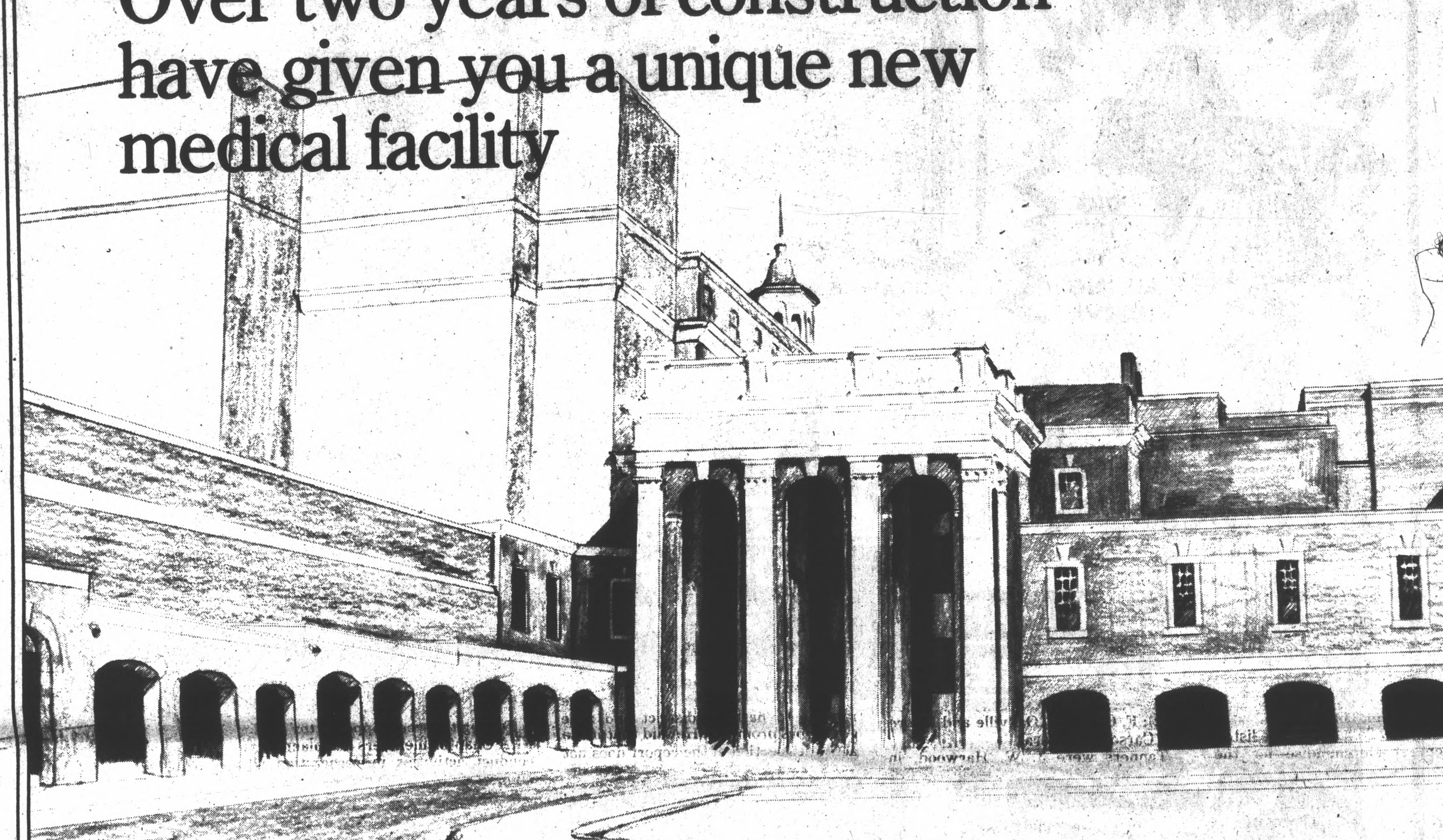

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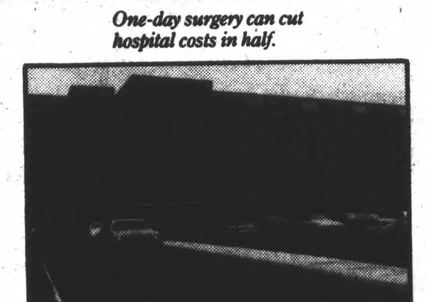

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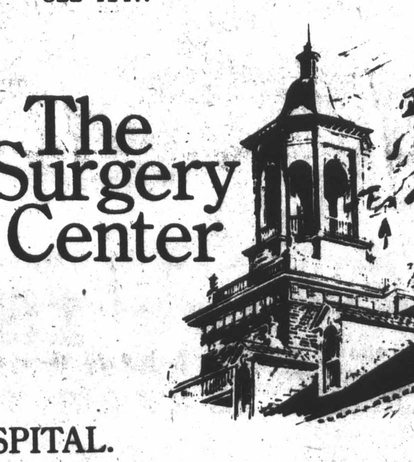
"A patient can be operated on in the morning and be home by suppertime."

So the next time you or a member of your family require an operation, ask your physician if you can take advantage of all the benefits of The Surgery Center at Virginia Baptist.

In the meantime, if you would like more information or a personal tour of this remarkable new medical facility, call 522-4147.

The Surgery Center



MORE GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR HOSPITAL.

Rocks news

By CASSIE BALDWIN

Rocks, Feb. 13: So thankful for the nice rain. This is good weather for colds. So many are sick.

A huge crowd attended the Frank Goin funeral on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 12, at Hixburg.

Sympathy is extended to his family and relatives.

"Focus Week" was Feb. 12-18 at Rocks Church. The Recognition of Leaders and W.M.U. members was featured last Sunday.

A prayer of thanksgiving and dedication was led by Helen Inge, W.M.U. director. Rocks W.M.U. was classed as "distinguished" in the Association's Recognition of accomplishments. G.A.'s recognized Joan Ranson, leader. New church members were recognized with a Bible and devotion books by Nancy Williams, president.

On Wednesday night at the mid-week service, meetings of the Mission Friends, GA's, Baptist Women and Brotherhood were held.

A nice crowd came to church Sunday and it was a beautiful day.

Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe of Richmond were among the visitors. They were visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Spain.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry East of Lynchburg spent the weekend in Richmond with their grandmother.

Frank Nash spent a few days in Southside Hospital, Farmville. He returned home on Sunday much improved.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Bryant Carter are all smiles. It's a boy, 8 lbs. 6 oz. Gary Carter, was born at Virginia Baptist Hospital on Feb. 15 at 5:30 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baldwin of Pamplin are the grandparents, and Mrs. Nannie Seay and Mrs. Helen Elder are the great-grandparents.

Sympathy goes out to the Glover family whose mother was buried at Andersonville last Saturday.

Get-well wishes go out to Billy Jean Baldwin who is in the hospital. May she have a speedy recovery.

March 4-11 is a week of prayer for the Home Missions and the Annie Armstrong offering.

The State W.M.U. Annual Meeting will be at Salem Civic Center March 13-14.

Get-well wishes go to Mrs. J.J. Bowman who is in Virginia Baptist Hospital.

A sad gloom was cast over Appomattox County on Monday morning when news came that Charlie Martin had passed away after a long illness at Lynchburg General Hospital. Sympathy goes out to his family and relatives. A large crowd attended the funeral on Thursday afternoon at Memorial Methodist Church at Appomattox.

Michael Richardson of Lynchburg College spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Richardson of Pamplin.

Randy Hipps of Blacksburg spent the weekend here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hipps of Pamplin.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Martin of Pamplin who received the anniversary cake given by W.T.T.X. Friday.

Christine Dickerson went to see a doctor in Lynchburg Feb. 13 and entered Virginia Baptist Hospital the same day for treatments. She returned home Friday much improved. May she have a very speedy recovery.

Get-well wishes go to Lizzie Pearl Baker, who is in Southside Hospital in Farmville.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Davis are all smiles. It's a boy, weighing 7 pounds, born Feb. 15.

Frank Nash went back to the doctor at Charlotte Court House Friday morning. He is doing very nicely. May he have a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Margaret Marshall spent last Sunday with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Malcom Jordan of near Phenix. It was a birthday celebration.

Memories of 1888

(Continued from page 1)

was your business, then you had three choices, A. D. Kyle, C Robertson and Jacob Woodson.

Spring Mills had three distillers listed. They were S. W. abd G. T. Cheatham and George W. Steele. Rose Bower had Harvey and Bryant and H. C. Ferguson and Bent Creek had W. P. Kyle.

There were two florists listed for the area. Blanche Babcock, the wife of H. C. Babcock, was florist in Mineral and Mrs. E. H. Grigg in Pamplin City.

Approximately 25 names were listed under General Merchandise for the area.

John R.Atwood was a merchant in Nebraska (Appomattox); G.T. Peers, William Rosser, J. Walton McKinny, Appomattox Court House.

In Pamplin City merchants were James Arch, R. D. Baldwin, James F. Connaly, Durphy and Meadows; J. R. Franklin, Merril and Ford and William D. THornton; H. C. Babcock in Mineral and John J. Carson, Spanish Oaks.

In Spout Spring merchants were E. F. Collins and C. T. Plunkett. Evergreen had two merchants, J. D Davis and E. F. Glover.

W. D. Ferguson was merchant at Chap and E. P. Fore and Co. the place to shop in Fore's Store Community. Two general merchandise businesses were in operation in Spring Mills, they were T. W. Harvey and J. W. Hendricks and F.G. Thorp was located in Oakville.

Five hotels offered accomodations in the are. Two hotels were in operation in Pamplin City, Hester Dennis was proprietor of one and D. W. Gills the other. R. B. Harvey operated a hotel in Spring Mills and J. Walton McKinney in Appomattox Court House. In Bent Creek the hotel was Joseph Poor Jr. and Co.

While the directory listed a number of physicians for the area in 1888, in talking with some of the older, long-time residents of the county, there is doubt that all of those listed were physicians. In fact, it is known that some of them were not.

Whether they were physicians or not, those listed were: Evergreen, W. H. Abbitt; Mineral Spring, H. C. Babcock; Pamplin City, E. H. Grigg, C. S. Morton; Spanish Oaks, W. N. Horsley; Tower Hill, Benjamin Megginson and J. Randolph; Oakville, R. A North; Spring Mills, W. S. Nowlin; Spout Spring, D. M. Robertson and D. P. Robertson; Bent Creek B. S. Vanter and William White.

Were they doctors? Who knows?

Dealers in Sassafras Oil were R. F. Burke and Co., Nebraska (Appomattox); F. G. Thorp, Oakville and Moore and Carson in Mineral.

Tanners were J. W. Harwood, in Pamplin City; Henry Layne, Tower Hill and Luther Thornhill in the Bent Creek Community.

When the sheep were sheared and wool ready for market, wool dealers in the area were H.C. Babcock, Mineral; D.A. Christian, Tower Hill and W.A. Glover. In Pamplin City they were R.P. Meadows and W.D. Moseley.

The Lynchburg Directory dated in 1888 listed five undertakers for the area. Stephen Beasley for the Tower Hill area; E. E. Chism in Evergreen; W. J. Johnson Jr. in Tower Hill; Samuel Martin, Mineral and J. V., Stephens, Bent Creek.

In the field of education there were 26 white schools and 15 schools for the black. Miss Bettie Johns, Hixburg operated a private school in 1888.

A number of merchants in various communities operated flour and corn mills or Saw and Planing Mills along with their other business.

The only Millwright listed for the area was P. L. Tolly at Pamplin City.

It is interesting to note that under mines the following were listed for Appomattox County: Mines - Gold George H. Horner, Pamplin City; Mines - Iron Nutall (no first name) for Mineral.

Merril and Ford was listed as Pipe Manufacturer in Pamplin City.

A long list of prominent farmes in each area completed the information concerning this area. How accurate is the information contained in the Lynchburg Directory dated 1888?....... No guarantees!

Progress

THIS PHOTOGRAPH reflects the progress on the new Appomattox Moose Lodge building. The pouring of the floor was necessary to allow erecting the main structure which is 60' x 100'. Completing the installation of trusses and roof are expected within the next few weeks, weather permitting.

At Pamplin gathering

Ruritan projects outlined

Representatives of the Ruritan Clubs in Zone III of the Appomattox District met Feb. 15 at Pamplin Drive-In for dinner and an exchange of ideas to improve their programs.

Present from the Buckingham club were president Charles Lewis, vice president Alex Seaman, and secretary Jeff Worley; present from the Evergreen club were secretary Larry Mobley and treasurer Glen Martin; Oakville's club was represented by president Norman Gagneur; Pamplin's club was represented by president Robert S. Miner and Bob McClenny, Sr.; the Prince Edward club was represented by president Ed Schinabeck and secretary Billy Pollard; and the Spout Spring club was represented by president Peyton Cumbie, vice president Donnie Ferguson, and member David Smith.

Horace Coleman, Jr., district governor, introduced special guest T.O. Rainey, III, zone governor.

Mr. Rainey noted the importance of club secretaries' completing club reports thoroughly, and sending the reports to national district and zone governors promptly. He said that if the activities section of the report does not show what the club is doing, it appears that the club is not effective in its area.

Mr. Rainey also revealed some of the objectives of the Appomattox District, which includes 45 clubs in 12 counties.

He stressed that each club should send a representative to the National Convention, since it will be held in Washington this year. Another objective is fulfillment of the "Inner Club" program, where representatives of the various clubs in the zone will visit other clubs' meetings to get new ideas on how to more effectively operate a Ruritan program.

Another project is the "Statue of Liberty Fund", a national Ruritan project which will contribute to the landmark's renovation, as proposed by President Reagan. The Ruritan's program will end Dec. 15, 1984, and money donated by Ruritan members will be sent to the National Statue of Liberty Committee.

Rainey also stressed the importance of the "rising senior" project, where each club is challenged to bring into membership two rising high school seniors.

Mr. Coleman discussed various concerns at the zone level, including membership expansion, club projects, secretaries' reports, newspaper publicity, and attendance of members at club meetings, as well as attendance at zone, district and national meetings by the proper club officials.

Mr. Coleman noted that two club contests will be in effect, from March 1 to July 31, and again from Aug. 1 to Nov. 30.

Awards will be made to the clubs in the zone which excel most in these areas: net increase in club membership, column inches in newspapers, club reports on time and with quality content, attendance at zone, district, and national meetings, club program effectiveness, club officer training, and monthly club attendance.

The next zone meeting will be July 18 at 7 p.m., at the home of Mr. Coleman.

Local FFA chapter celebrating this week

The Appomattox Senior FFA Chapter, along with over 8300 other FFA Chapters across the nation are celebrating 1984 FFA Week, Feb. 18-25.

During [illegible] Appomattox Senior FFA Chapter members are planning to conduct activities in recognition and support of this year's vocational agriculture and FFA theme --- "Keeping America on the Grow."

Vocational agriculture education and FFA place a major emphasis on learning by doing. By giving experience to students in agriculture, a work force dedicated to meet the food and fiber needs of our nation and the world is continuously being developed.

The FFA Week emphasis this year is to show how the vocational agriculture and FFA program pays dividends to the local community. Careers skills and earnings from the members' supervised occupational experience (SOE) programs are invested back into the local economy. The program also prepares students to fill leadership roles in the community.

The Appomattox Senior FFA Chapter plans to help celebrate FFA Week through posters in the community, a faculty and school board reception, placemats in local restaurants, radio and newspaper coverage, and several other activities.

FFA Week has traditionally included George Washington's birthday in respect for his great leadership and innovative practices in agriculture. The National FFA Center, which houses the National Hall of Achievement, is sited on 37 acres of the old Washington estate, near Alexandria, Virginia.

From production to processing, service to marketing--FFA and Vocational Agriculture are "Keeping America on the Grow".

Happiness is 4-H

By FRANK H. SWEET
Extension Agent

The Annual 4-H Public Speaking Program will be held on Tuesday evening, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. at Appomattox Elementary School. More than 300 4-H'ers have taken part in the Public Speaking Program this year. The public is invited to attend the final program on the 28th and enjoy hearing some excellent young speakers. Special ribbons and trophies will be awarded following the program.

* * *

Many 4-H members will receive bluebird houses this week through a special program coordinated with J.E. Sears & Company. The bluebird houses should be put together and erected in a suitable place. The birdhouses may be treated with wood preservative or painted with a dull color. The bird houses should be placed on a pole or post about 6 or 8 feet off the ground. An open area such as an orchard or next to a field is the best location. Bluebirds will soon be looking for nesting places.

* * *

Five 4-H and FFA members have purchased feeder lambs to raise and show as market lambs in the May 5 Central Virginia Livestock Show. Bob Poole, Lisa Coleman, Paul Humbles, Tracey Garrett and Ernest Humbles purchased lambs last week that weighed from 55 to 65 pounds. These lambs will be fed a complete ration of hay to reach a weight of about 100 pounds by early May. The market lamb project should prove an interesting experience for these young people.

* * *

Southside Electric Cooperative will again sponsor high school juniors to the Rural Electric Washington Youth Tour. The tour, which will be held from June 11-June 14, 1984, is an educational and fun trip to Washington, D.C. to better acquaint high school juniors with government in action. Details on the program and how to apply are available from the Extension Office and most likely the high school guidance office.

Winners will be selected based on essays submitted on one of several subjects involving rural electric cooperatives.

* * *

Senior 4-H'ers are again reminded that completed achievement records are due in the Extension Office by Tuesday, Feb. 28.

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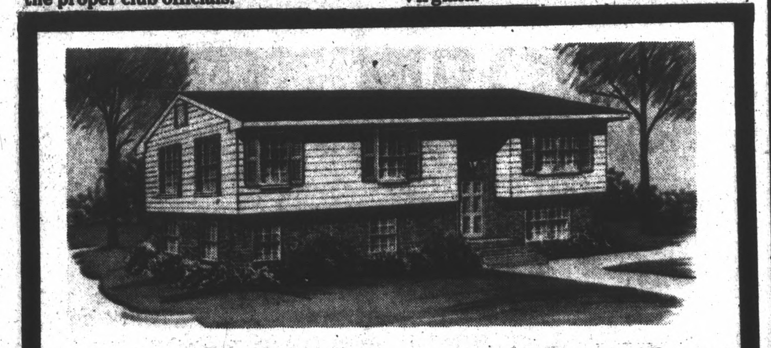

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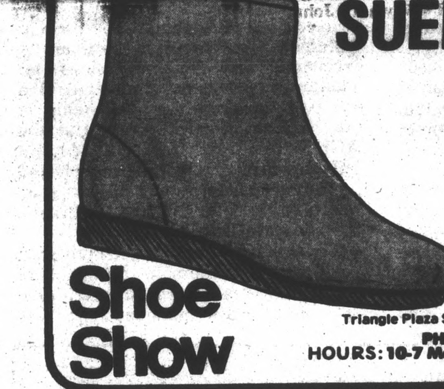

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S.T.P. OIL TREATMENT Reg. $1.89 SALE $1.47
EASY-OFF Oven Cleaner Reg. $1.69 SALE $1.27
S.T.P. Gas Treatment Reg. $1.19 SALE 88¢
RIVAL 3½ QT. CROCK POT Reg. $16.99 SALE $12.88

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